



TEXAS GENERAL LAND OFFICE

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PRESS RELEASE

Public trust land managers from across the West come to Austin

Western States Land Commissioners represent 23 states, billions of dollars of public land assets

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AUSTIN — The Western States Land Commissioners Association will meet at the Hyatt Regency Austin Jan. 8-12 to swap ideas on managing millions of acres of public trust land.

"Vast resources and abundant land have always been the hallmark of the American West," said Texas Land Commissioner Jerry Patterson. "This meeting brings the West to Austin. I look forward to learning how my counterparts are doing and even showing off a few things we're doing here in the Lone Star State to earn money for the schoolchildren of Texas."

Informational sessions on how Texas manages royalty reporting and lease management, national energy policy and the growing role of developing renewable energy on state land are on the agenda.

South Dakota Land Commissioner Jarrod Johnson - who, like Patterson is one of just five elected land commissioners in the nation - said he always learns a thing or two when he comes to Austin. "It's always refreshing to come to Texas and see different methodologies and different ways to do things," Johnson said. "This kind of exchange helps us all to better manage the assets we've been entrusted with."

In the United States, the practice of holding land in a trust to benefit public schools dates back to the Articles of Confederation. For most states west of the Mississippi, doing so was a requirement for entering the Union.

For more information about the association or the conference, please visit www.wslca.org

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